



October 2010

Volume 6, Issue 10

Copyright RCT

From The Editor...



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ELECTION time!

Yes, it's that time again; and not the normal political hurly-burly that we are currently being subjected to in the popular media. The elections on question are the Radio Club of Tacoma's officer elections. Up for renewal are the President, Treasurer, and two board positions. Due to unforeseen problems, the current club secretary position is also open. The club president will appoint a temporary replacement for this job.

Elections are important, and gives you, the members, a chance to elect someone that you feel will do the job(s) correctly. Candidates will be announced at the next General club meeting on October 13th.

If you want to put yourself or someone else up for nominations, that will be your only opportunity to do so. If that's on your schedule, be sure to attend the meeting!

If I'm not too mistaken, one of the candidates for President will be yours truly, Gary McAdams; WG7X.

I will use the executive privilege here to put out a small platform statement:

1. I feel that the club is now and has been on the right track in improving the overall club experience and I will continue that improvement process. Club activities and infrastructure all are improving and should continue to improve.
2. We will continue to do more radio related activities like contests and DX'ing.
3. We will have in place continuing radio education, concentrating on basic VHF and HF activities and combined with that, we should have an Elmers program to assist new hams in getting radio-active.

That is enough for a start. Basically, I feel that the RCT is now and will continue to be a place where everyone, regardless of license level, can come for fun and education. I hope that you members will take the time to ask me anything that you feel needs addressed. MY contact information is on the last page of this publication. In the meantime, don't forget to vote!

73

Gary WG7X

Dateline: October 2010

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more...

Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.

- Mystery photo
- Around the Club
- Nominations and Election
- ARRL and such
- Attaboys
- View from the Shack

Mystery Photo

Last months mystery photo was of the stencil machine Dick Ryan W7 RGD used in his basement to produce the early years of the BARK newsletter. You will find the finished newsletters neatly ensconced in bound green books in the Radio Club Library. If you are curious about the clubs history, this is a good place to browse

through the last thirty years or so.

Around the Club...

The Last Saturday **Open House with Club Swapmeet** sales, hot dogs, chili and the fixing's continue to draw respectable crowds. Some are finding boat anchors they always needed. While others just come to share stories, or solicit help with some ham related problem. It's a great place to invite friends who are or want to be hams. The Radio Club of Tacoma has a rich history and a great deal to offer prospective or licensed hams.

The Last General **Membership Meeting** provided a reprise of last year's Salmon Run excursions and a preview of this year's Salmon Run and the Club's fund raiser associated with it. Of course by this printing this year's Salmon Run is history, and the Club coffers will be refreshed by the performance of the HF Station Salmon Run Team.

Tuesday Night Net... Sparky has noticed growth in our Tuesday night net. It's a great place to hear announcements and discussions on club activities and share ham related information.

Nominations and Election...

Every year in the Fall the Radio Club of Tacoma nominates and elects about half of its Officers and Board of Directors. It is the time of year that members should be thinking about the future, and who they want to provide the leadership and management skills to keep the Club moving forward. We have over 300



members and only four elected officers and five board members. This small group is responsible for representing all the membership and have a duty to keep the ship of state on track and moving forward. These important positions require not only an interest in amateur radio but demand skills in leadership, planning, financial management, promotion, organization, education together with a solid understanding of the law as it applies to us as a Washington State Non-Profit organization. Nomination is not a popularity contest, nor should it be a vehicle to promote an individual, or small group's agenda. The Officers and Directors may not always agree, but their decisions should always be in the best interests of the Club. If you have the experience, interpersonal skills and job skills needed we're looking for Board Member candidates who have at least one year of active club membership, as well as President and Treasure officers with at least two years of active club membership.

The HF Rotor Repair Project

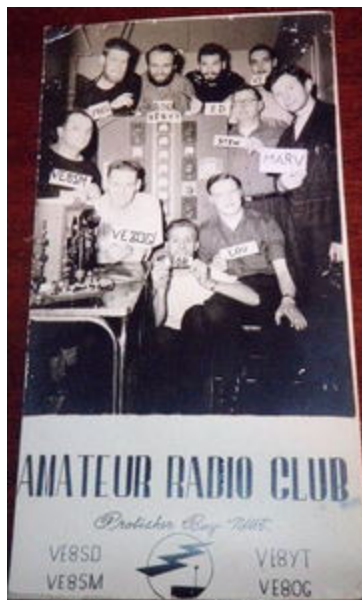
Sparky is pleased to note that the HF Rotor and control line project was rushed to completion just in time for this year's Salmon Run, Thanks to all who had a hand in snatching success from the jaws of time.

ARRL and other stuff:

CONVERSATIONS

About Five Years Before You Did

It's a common question to a more experienced ham, "What was the best time to get into ham radio?" Why is it that the answer always seems to be, "Oh, about five years before you did," or the equivalent? No matter what, there is always somebody who seems to have been around when the DXing was easier, the pileups more mannered, the bands open longer, and the homebrewing brewier. It never fails. (Just remember, young folks, they got the same jazz from their elders when they got started!)



Sometimes I think maybe we should have all just thrown our radios away after 1959 (or 1947 or 1932 or 1927 or...) since nothing could ever be that good again. After all, 10 meters was open 24 hours a day and you only had to sneeze into the microphone to fill your log with DX while running only 5 watts of AM from a 6L6 rig built from a kitchen bread pan and connected to a dipole in a tree. Sigh. (For the record, I got licensed in 1972.)

Pssst - here's a secret - every year is a golden year! I just got back from a couple of digital communications conferences and let me tell you that digital is exploding in any manner you care to evaluate; modulation, protocol, activity. For example, WØYK just checked in with a

claimed score of 5024 QSOs from P49X in last weekend's CQ WW RTTY contest. A couple of years ago, the 5000-QSO level was considered fantasy for a single-op station.

Golden ages are not incremental - they stem from breakthroughs or sudden changes in the environment. The Internet and Solar Cycle 19 have a lot in common. We are seeing a dramatic convergence of technologies that are enabling an explosion of digital modes, fertilizing innovation and experimentation. The latest version of F6CTE's free multi-mode software, [MultiPSK](#), has 87 different modes to choose from. That's a far cry from when I got into ham radio and it was pretty much RTTY, SSTV, and Fax warbling away around various calling frequencies.

A presentation by Bruce K6BP at this past weekend's TAPR Digital Communications Conference showcased the new [Codec2 Open Source digital voice codec](#) for low-bandwidth channels, such as HF ham radio. The primary developer is David Rowe, VK5DGR and his work is a significant advance in the communications state of the art, one aspect of Part 97.1's Basis and Purpose for Amateur Radio. While digital voice is not yet a contesting mode, that day will surely come.

So look around - somebody's having a golden age right now! Have you a computer with a sound card and a voice rig? You're in! Care to join the fun?

73, Ward NØAX

[+FCC: ARRL Comments in FCC Review of CB Rules](#)



In June the FCC opened a proceeding -- WT Docket No. 10-119 -- "to simplify, streamline, and update the Part 95 rules to reflect technological advances and changes in the way the American public uses the various Personal Radio Services." The Citizens Band (CB) Radio Service is one of several Personal Radio Services regulated by Part 95. Three of the CB-related issues raised in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* are of interest to the Amateur Radio Service. On September 3, the ARRL filed comments limited to these issues.

[History of Amateur Radio EmComms](#)

From the 8 September ARES Newsletter:

Starting with the issue of October 1925, *QST* was full of news and commentary about the Army-Amateur Radio System, about which the journal's editor wrote in the December 1925 issue, "It seems to us that this affiliation is about the most important thing that ever happened to amateur radio in this country." Or as the original story in the October 1925 *QST* expressed it (page 23), "If we can put this over it will be the biggest thing ARRL has ever done."

There's even "new news" from that era. At Dayton this year two members of that "[truly] original Amateur Radio emergency response organization" were recognized by posthumous induction into the CQ Hall of Fame. Ralph Hollis,

4FC, and Forrest Dana, 4AGR, transmitted the calls that brought Red Cross and Army aid to South Florida in the Okeechobee hurricane of 1928, which killed 2,000 persons. Their heroism, fully recounted in *QST* at the time, should be included in any commemoration of the beginnings of amateur emcomm. The story would make great reading for the E-Letter. -- [Bill Sexton, N1IN](#), Region 1 (New England) Deputy Director of Army MARS, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

If you have an interest in Emergency Communications, here are some easy links to check out

[Introduction to Incident Command System](#)

[ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents](#)

[National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) An Introduction](#)

[National Response Framework, An Introduction](#)

[Emergency Support Functions \(ESF\) #2 - Communications](#)

The above courses are available free of charge from the FEMA Independent Study Web site, conducted by its Emergency Management Institute. These are just a few of the many courses that apply to Amateur Radio emergency communications. Take as many as you can!

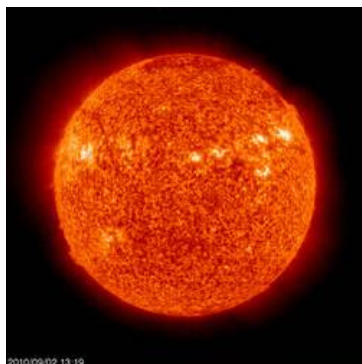
Here are a few additional courses to take:

[Introduction of Disaster Services, American Red Cross](#)

[Intro to Emergency Communications - Level 1/Basic](#), ARRL

[Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs](#), ARRL

Solar Update



Tad "[Magnificent strong Sun...so prodigally generous of pristine light](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: Conditions were good over the past week, with the average daily sunspot numbers up more than 5 points to 45.3, and the average solar flux rising 1.5 points to 84.4. On Wednesday, September 29, the solar flux was 90.7. The last time it was nearly this high was August 7 at 90.5, and it last topped this value at 91.8 on March 13, 2010. Despite dire predictions from some for a [Maunder Minimum](#) and no more sunspots, Solar Cycle 24 continues to progress. A coronal

wind on September 24 provided the moderate geomagnetic activity for the week, with the planetary A index rising to 13. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, October 1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by David Gascoyne's [September Sun](#).

+ ARDF Update: Three Medals for Team USA at the 2010 ARDF World Championships

By ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV

ARRL Team USA has just returned from Croatia, the site of this year's World

Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF). Three members have new medals for their collections, the most medals ever earned in the World Championships by the USA. ARDF -- also called foxhunting and radio-orienteeing -- requires map-and-compass proficiency, stamina and speed, as well as skill using direction-finding gear. It is done entirely on foot. Each day, the competitors set forth into a 1700 acre woods containing five "fox" transmitters in unknown locations. The foxes for each band are all on the same frequency and each one comes on the air for 60 seconds at a time in rotating sequence. Only men and women in the prime age category are required to look for all five; those in the other age/gender categories search for fewer, in accordance with International Amateur Radio Union rules. Read more

[here](#).



Team USA members and officials are relaxing and sightseeing on the way to the Model Event on September 14. Back row: Dick Arnett, WB4SUV; Harley Leach, KI7XF; Karla Leach, KC7BLA; George Neal, KF6YKN; Alla Mezhevaya; Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI; Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK; Bob Cooley, KF6VSE; Dennis Schwendtner, WB6OBB, and Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV. Front row: Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG; Lori Huberman; Marvin Johnston, KE6HT, and Kuon Hunt, KB7WRG. Competitors not pictured: Dale Hunt, WB6BYU; Jen Harker, W5JEN, and Ken

Harker, WB5R. [Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS, Photo]

Attaboys:

This month's Attaboys cover a lot of ground. First to Steve Morton AD7AB and his intrepid team (Andrew Quamme K7ASQ, Crystal Quamme K7XK, Bob Duley KF7HQH, Dick KF7HQU, and Harry Adams W7HSA) that put together last month's **W7DK at the Fair** booth. Great job, and well done. A tip of Sparky's hat too to all who served at the booth and made our window on the ham world available to the thousands of folks who attended the fair. We always pick up new members, and frequently renew old friendships with area hams. This year again, Leonard KA7NWF provided personalized button badges for all the booth hosts. Thanks.

And of course to the **Salmon Run** team, the planners, operators, and administrivia wranglers who got the antenna rotor working again, probed the airways for elusive counties and counter stations, and especially to all who pledged for the fund drive, which keeps the lights on and the bills paid at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

View from the Shack...

The **Election** season is upon us, think hard, volunteer your services, consider the candidates and vote for those who have the experience, skills and abilities to lead this venerable organization into the future.

Finally, The Club is seeking a manager for the annual **Christmas dinner and Awards Banquet**... If you can take up the challenge, please contact the President, or any club officer as soon as possible...

Sparky

"Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else"

The Disclaimer...

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Salmon Run... Stories From Members**By Rich KR7W—AKA Webgeek**

The intent of this article is to highlight the Salmon Run activities of members who did not participate at the Mighty W7DK Fundraiser Station. Your reporter invited www.w7dk.org website viewers to submit their stories. Please read further...

Joe Lester, K7AWJ, writes : I drove to Skamania County and camped near the top of Gumboot Mountain east of Yacolt, WA in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, elevation about 3800 feet. I set up my Icom IC-7000 radio and laptop computer on a table in a shower tent with about 12 square feet of floor space. My antenna was an Out-



A lovely view of the forest frames Joe's Outbacker vertical antenna on the tripod.



Webgeek thinks Joe, K7AWJ's QTH in the Privy/shower tent for campouts is quite clever.

backer vertical mounted on a tripod with a few radials. Power was supplied by a Honda generator.

I operated for seven hours on Saturday and made 97 QSOs on CW and nine on phone. Contacts were made with 30 states and two Canadian provinces, one DX station in Argentina, and 15 Washington counties. Due to very wet and windy weather, I shut down at 6PM Saturday evening before I could work many local Washington stations on 75/80 meters. I was surprised my very first QSO on 20 meters phone was with another nearby station in Skamania County. It was great fun calling CQ and experiencing small pile-ups as radio amateurs around the country tried to make contact.

Tune in the next page for more...

SR Stories... cont'd

Bob, K7MXE, reports... I bid on and won a GSA Auction for a military motorcycle in Iowa and decided to drive back and pick it up over the Salmon Run weekend. Some of the first contacts were when I was still in Wyoming but by the end I was in Iowa and most contacts were in South Dakota. I used the FT897 Yaesu rig and a Band Spanner antenna from the 60's that came from K7DBU.

I only pounced on CQ's on twenty meter phone and guess I got close to 20 counties. No logs or dupe sheets, just fun and for a dupe sheet I would ask the other station to check me for a dupe. This was at freeway speed on Interstate 90, Interstate 29 and Iowa 20 and just a bit of Interstate 35. I'm not much of a contest person but did have a good time. de K7MXE mobile South Dakota. QSL the five by nine from Garfield county.

Larry, KD4VOM sends in this blurb...This year's Salmon Run found us at the Yakama Indian Nation RV Park in Toppenish Washington, Yakima County, enjoying a weekend with the Bremerton Elks RV Club.

I was able to make 11 contacts with six WA counties, including Pierce and WW7LW in Ferry County, but try as I might, and although I could hear W7DK and the stations W7DK was responding to, they did not hear me.

The Rig is a 706MKII G with an AH-4 automatic antenna tuner feeding a vertical 21' wire antenna mounted on the motor home with a push up fiberglass flagpole. Contacts were made on SSB on 80, 40 and 20 meters. I enjoyed the contest but was disappointed that W7DK could not hear me...

Maybe next year... Cheers ,
Larry Watson KD4VOM



Bob, K7MXE's Mobile set up in his Dodge pickup truck.



Ham Shack of the Month

Hey Members... show off your shack here in the Bark. Simply send a photo of your ham radio equipment to webgeek@w7dk.org. Also, be sure to send an explanation of what equipment is in the photo. This month's shack is submitted by: _____.

Take a moment and guess. The answer is found on page XX.



Looking Left to Right: A Nye-Viking MB-VA tuner, with an IC-706 setting on top, then the IC-756 PROIII and last is the Ameritron AL-82 amplifier. Not seen to the far right would be the old school Kenwood TS-940s and Accessories for RTTY. This station's antenna is a ~120 ft dipole about 90 ft high, fed with 450 ohm ladder line to a balun in the basement. The balun connects to the tuner in the photo via RG213 coax cable. This antenna and tuner combo will tune 80 to 10 meters quite well. The owner of this equipment has achieved his DXCC and is a member of the SOC. Who is it?



2010 Salmon Run Report W7DK A 'Clean Sweep', Nearly by Alan N7OMS

The 2010 Washington State QSO party is concluded. For Radio Club of Tacoma members that means the number of counties we have based our pledges on is now a known quantity. Your contest team was able to contact 38 out of 39 counties. Still no clean sweep but closer than we have been the past few years. It is a bit of an odd feeling wanting to get those counties while knowing it's costing me more pledge money! What makes it OK is seeing the positive changes that have taken place at the Radio Club by using those funds. My personal opinion is that the club is in a much better place to meet the needs of its members. And more fun!

This year also saw several firsts. With the approval of our board and the help of several members, we were able to replace the somewhat confusing array of sky wires that the club's stations have been using. This action cleaned up the tower and made better use of it as a dipole support. What can seen now is an 80 meter dipole with the center about 75 feet high supported by a new tower arm. At 60 feet you'll see a 40 meter dipole also with a new tower arm. Each dipole is being fed by a 1 to 1 balun capable of running full legal power. The new tower arms, dipoles and 40 meter balun were made by Acme Labs with Rich KR7W and Chuck AC7QN manning the tools. The balun on the 80 antenna is from Bill AD7QI purchased at a discount. Thanks Guys! These new dipoles are run into the HF room but from there they will be extended to the Museum and eventually downstairs to what is now the PSK31 station.

One of the reasons for this change was so the club could operate as Club-MO2T. That is club station multiple operators operating two transmitters. A new category for W7DK us-



ALAN N7OMS

ing two new antennas. We used the clubs Tri band beam from the HF room in Run (CQ) mode. In the museum we did search and pounce using Bob's Pro III (Thanks Bob AD7LJ) hooked to either the new 80 or 40 meter dipole. Having the Run station using the beam on 20 meters and the S&P station on either 40 or 80 meters cut down on inter station interference. Even with the 'Run' station outputting 1300 watts.

There was another first. A couple of weeks prior to the contest I was using the Club's station with the Drake L4B Linear Amp engaged when the power supply exploded in a shower of sparks and smoke. Rich KR7W and Bruce WE7P quickly found new and improved power supply kit boards on the internet and Bruce ordered them. Bruce received the new parts with just enough time to assemble them and get the power supply in shape to let us use the Amp for Salmon Run. Thanks Bruce WE7P for your late night work.

Running Club MO2T led us to another first. With two stations you have two persons logging contacts at the same time. The logging program we chose to use is N1MM logger. Nick K7MO and crew have used this program in the past because it lets two stations log to one file if you have them networked together. Just the ticket for SR 2010. We even had an extra computer hooked to the network so the members downstairs could view

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the live contesting action going on above their heads. It was a big learning curve but with Rich and Bruce helping things went pretty well .

As for the contest itself... Good Golly Miz Pat! We had three chief operators Pat WT7N, Gary WG7X and Randy WB4SPB, several others filled in the odd moments but the bulk of contacts were made by the "Big Three". I don't believe that Randy came to the club thinking he was going to play such a major role. But he did and thanks Randy. Randy made 99 percent of all CW contacts. It was really fun to watch Randy work the paddle very smoothly. I have a



Pat, WT7N, at the controls of the W7DK 'Run' Station. She is wearing a headset/mic to minimize distractions. The log shows that Pat was a big hit with hams in Italy. WG7X foto.

new goal: to have 10 percent of Randy's skill level by next SR.

Pat WT7N provided focus. When she was in the chair it got quiet in the room. We all wanted to hear the pile ups that her voice generated. I think she contacted more DX stations than the other operators. She also landed some of the harder counties and made sure that bottoms filled the contest chairs at all opportunities. You did not say NO to Pat!

Now let's talk about Gary WG7X. Gary has always been one of the best supporters of the SRFR (Salmon Run Fund Raiser). His support in the Bark before the event and his incomparable skill as a contesteer during SR has meant much to the success of the SRFR. This year we wanted to kick things up a notch. We wanted to compete at a higher level. New Antennas, Two stations, Run power, more focus on higher score and

MORE COUNTIES-BIGGER SCORE: W7DK worked 38 counties, a new high for the SRFR, and a score that more than double last year's—Over 263 thousand points.

There are always a lot of people to thank for an event like this. Like RCT Prez. Jill K7JIL for hosting the Saturday evening pot luck dinner and Steve AD7AB for last minute upgrades to the HF room computer, Mary. Or Rick KE7EMU, Peter AD7EU, Joe K7AWJ and Larry KD4VOM for all their efforts on the paper work side of SRFR. So, out goes a big thank you and to the others I have not mentioned. But my biggest thank you goes to all who have and are donating to the 2010 SRFR and to all past SRFRs. Your generosity has made the club a better place to create those Ham Radio memories.

Mike Elwell W7GHW
Radio Club of Tacoma
The FlexRadio FLEX-3000™

Mike Elwell W7GHW RCT member, will present a program on the FlexRadio Flex-3000. Mike hopes to have his radio set up and working at the club meeting **Wednesday October 27**. The FlexRadio, Flex-3000 is a software defined radio, meaning, the radio is connected to a computer and the computer is a working part of the radio. With a free software change the entire radio could be updated to have new features characteristics and other niceties. This is the radio of the future. Mike will try to explain and show the set up and operation of this SDR radio.

Topics covered will be: Software defined radio, who is it for? Why did Mike choose this radio over other radios? Why did Mike purchase a Flex -3000 versus a Flex-5000. What else is needed to set up this radio? Why SDR? How much does it cost? How good is it? Any problems with the SDR radio?

Hopefully the radio will be operable at the club meeting and we can see its performance. Mike Elwell has owned his Flex-3000 since April 2010. He does not claim to be a full expert on the radio but is becoming familiar with using it for SSB, AM and some CW.

He still has plans for other digital uses such as PSK31 and RTTY.

Mike says "This is a great toy, but the real success in ham radio is from the antennas and I am working on them."

73.

Mike Elwell 9-23-10



□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
 □ SHACK 'oTHE □
 □ MONTH!!! □
 □
 □ Yeah, its mine... □
 □ But wait! □
 □ There's more! □
 □
 □ At left you can see □
 □ what the shack □
 □ really looks like.. □
 □ About one day □
 □ into an RTTY □
 □ contest with wires □
 □ going everywhere □
 □ soda cans and □
 □ mess everywhere.. □
 □
 □ Real ham radio! □
 □ Gary WG7X □
 □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

WW7LW Rovers to FER, STE, PEND
by Rich KR7W

A double secret probation meeting of the South Wahkiakum Amateur Radio Club determined that Chuck AC7QN and Rich KR7W would activate the call WW7LW and head to the upper right part of WA State for the Salmon Run. Arriving in Ferry County the Friday afternoon we camped out at Curlew State Park, 5 miles north of Republic.

A late start on a rainy Saturday morning took the WW7LW Rover station to the Ferry-Stevens county boarder. Set up was at a Forest Service campground on an island (sort of) in the



Chuck, AC7QN, at the controls of the station in the VW van at the Kettle River on the FER-STE Cnty line.

Kettle River. On the air by 11:00 AM a large number of QSOs were made on 75 and 40 meter SSB. At this location the sun had returned to the skies and dried out our tents and other wet items. This part of our state is very peaceful compared to the hustle-bustle of metro PIE county. 139 SSB and 42 CWQSOs were made from this location.

Next we drove about an hour on Highway 20 to the Stevens-Pend Oreille county line. We parked just off the highway next to a chip/bark processing operation. The owner was curious



Here's some lovely scenery from a camp ground on the Kettle River. This spot is near Highway 395 about 5 miles north of Highway 20 in the upper right part of WA.

and stopped by to make sure that we were not Democrats or terrorists (I suppose). We operated for about 90 minutes and took off for our overnight stop in Lone.

We had arranged with Linda and Gabe of the Cedars RV Park/Gift Shop/Truck Wash to set up our tents in their yard. Gabe was quite welcoming to us and provide us with an AC power extension cord so we didn't have to run our generator for power. This worked out very well... as we didn't

Tune to the next page ...

have to listen to the little Honda generator groan when we made coffee.

Our tents were set up in their back yard with the VW van ham shack parked in the gravel near by.

Chuck was able to shoot a string up about 45 feet in one of their trees and we pulled up the multi-band inverted Vee antenna. We were back on the air by 7:00 PM and made a bunch of SSB QSOs. Then at exactly 7:30 PM... a huge amount of electrical noise appeared on 75 meters. This pretty much wiped out SSB contacts... so I went to 80 meter CW and was able to make many Qs around the state using this reliable mode of operation. I even answered Randy calling CQ from the Mighty DK. I was pretty hyped up making contact with the hard to get counties... but pooped out around 10:00 PM as did the other CW ops.

Sunday morning had some DX coming in on 40 meter CW through the electrical noise. While waiting on 75 meter SSB for the Whiskey Group guys to start up... a miracle happened: at exactly 7:30 AM... the electrical noise ceased. We made some SSB Qs on 75 meters and

Upper Right foto shows the set up on Hiway 20 on the STE-PEND county Line- next to the chip/bark plant.

In the Lower Right foto we are set up at the FER-OKAN county line.

Tune to Next Page...



then went to 20 meter CW. Stations from the east coast and Midwest were grateful for Pend Oreille county in their logs.

We decided to head back west as the rain sort of drenched our enthusiasm. It rained pretty bad Saturday night and my tent leaked. Lucky I was sleeping on an island of two pads. It coulda been worse. Off to the Ferry-Okanogan county line.



Rich, KR7W, at the mighty "You guys have a great signal" WW7LW controls. Everyone thought we were using a K3+KW...

We had visited this nice spot two

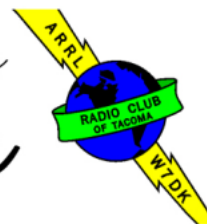
years before so there was no mystery where we would set up. We parked here until the end of the contest at 5 PM. Luckily we had no rain for our stay at FER-OKAN. With a half hour to go we had contacted 38 out of the 39 counties and we were on the edge of our seats waiting for Garfield to show up. 75 meter SSB and 40 meter CW provided the best places to look for our Clean Sweep. While operating 75 meter SSB we were asked to drive to Garfield county. "How far away is it?", Pat at the mighty W7DK asks. I told her it was 375 miles and we would be there in 6 or 7 hours. A double-secret probation of the club members might determine Garfield as our destination in 2011, so stay tuned. On this outing we made 298 SSB and 118 CW QSOs and worked 38 of the 39 counties. Most of the rare counties were contacted on CW.



If you turn your back to the sign... you are facing Ferry County. 67 SSB + 17 CW QSOs = 84 total from this location. We made a contact with a ham in OKAN from this location. I told him, "Ya gotta love these pine trees". He said, "QSL, yup, love 'em in the forest, love 'em after a forest fire, love 'em in my fireplace... ya gotta love 'em".



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



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ADVERTISE in the BARK: \$60.00 full page, \$30.00 half page, \$15.00 quarter page, \$5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.

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Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark

Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.

PO Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



OCTOBER 2010 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays October 13th and 27th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday October 6th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .